

A Survey of radiation exposure in the PET study under the revised medical law

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Abstract

The medical law was revised in August 2004 obliging PET facilities to prepare a stand-by room for patients in the radiation management area. After the injection of FDG, patients should wait in the room until the scanning begins. In our facilities, the stand-by room was set closer than the room which had been used as the rest room or waiting room for patients before the law revision, so it was anticipated that the staff for the PET would be more exposed to the radiation from the patients than before. We compared the exposure doses of the doctors, nurses and the radiological technologist before and after the new regulation. Contrary to our prediction, the exposure doses were decreased. This may be because that the staff has come to be more conscious about the radiation protection, and for the nurses, the time of attending patients has come to be shortened. We also measured the exposure doses of different parts of the body and found that some parts are more susceptible than others depending the task or the kind of study. Based on this survey, we will try our best to minimize the radiation exposure.